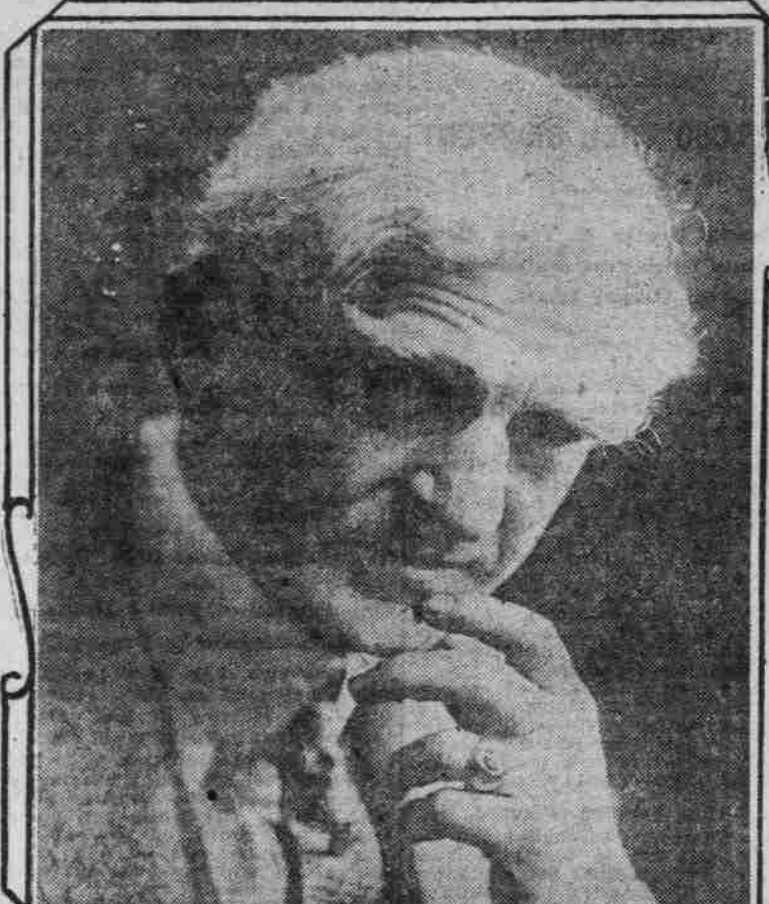


FRANK BACON TO BRING "LIGHTNIN'" WEST IN 1923

Star of Play That Ran Three Years in New York Is Same Kind-hearted Well-Liked Player of Old Stock Days.



Frank Bacon

BY ELIZABETH LONERGAN.

JUST about a year ago Frank Bacon and his "Lightnin'" company, one of the merriest groups of actors that ever set foot on Broadway, pulled up their stakes and went to Chicago. Boston folk were prieved, because they had been promised the next engagement. Philadelphians were mollified only because so many of them had been able to take in the show at the Gaiety, while others in nearby cities that usually were able to see real Broadway shows were sadly disappointed. But Chicago, St. Louis, there was great joy in the big metropolises! Just to fancy that the biggest hit in history, with a three-year run to its credit, should come to town with the same star and cast. Today the crowds are just as large as the opening week and the hoodoo that has clung to the Blackstone for 13 successive years has been lifted, while the Gaiety that housed "Turn to the Right" and then "Lightnin'" has played to failure after failure since Frank Bacon left town.

New Jealous of Actor.

Northwest folks have always known that Bacon would land and land big, and his success has made fewer jealous hearts in the profession than the success of any other star. The kind, generous nature that made friends on the coast is unchanged by his big success, and he still finds time for his old friends and for new ones that interest him. In the theatrical profession they point with pride to Frank Bacon's work in the Actors' Equity association. Other well-known actors, fully in the beginning lost their interest but "Lightnin'" Bill Jones is as good a booster as ever and always ready to help them out in any emergency. It is likely, to soothe those troubled hearts in Boston, that a flying trip will be made back east at the close of the Chicago engagement. This will have its advantages, because Frank can week-end at Bayside, his beautiful residence not far from New York. If the engagement can be made a short one (but that doesn't seem possible) the western tour can come early in the new year. But do not pin your hopes on an early visit in 1923, more likely it will be in the fall. One consolation, however—he is really coming. The other companies, headed by Milton Nobles and Thomas Jefferson, will play the large cities of the east and south, but the author and star has saved the western territory for himself.

West Frightens Star.

I asked him in his dressing room at the Blackstone theater just what his emotions were at returning to his home country. "I am very anxious to go back and get the same time a bit afraid," he said. "It is like facing the family in a part. While they love and admire you, they are the severest critics and you strive harder to please them than any other audience in the world." He paused a moment and seemed thinking the way back in the past to those other days when the Frank Bacon stock company toured the northwest. There are many old friends that I am going to meet, too, on this trip home. That is another thing that will make it harder for me.

How Family Passes Time.

And now for news of the family. Mrs. Bacon spent the winter in Chicago with Bessie's kiddies and Lloyd's little girl Francis at a stunning place on the north shore that was leased for the season. Early in the summer the home in Bayside was opened and the children went east to revel in their vacation time. Mrs. Bacon has been at the Blackstone, which adjoins the theater, and occasionally "walks on" in the courtroom scene with a visiting friend who wants to see what it is like on the other side of the footlights. She has a host of old friends and enjoys her busy new life. Bessie has the leading role in the second "Lightnin'" company of which her husband, Matthew Allen, was the manager. Lloyd is directing Lloyd Hamilton in Los Angeles and doing splendidly. When Mr. Bacon was in New York it was surprising how many imitators he had, in dress, in manner. I thought of this when I met another "double" on Randolph street. At a distance there was a resemblance, which faded as the character man approached. He doubtless prided himself upon the "like-ness" and spent hours at the mirror striving to obtain the proper effect. But there is only one Frank Bacon and all the imitations in the world cannot come within a mile of him!



Bill Jones

"The Joseph Jefferson of today" he has been called, and surely Frank Bacon and "Lightnin'" are just as famous as the creator of "Rip Van Winkle" and "Bill Jones" will go down as an historical character to theatergoers of future generations.

Zoologist is Honored.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Sept. 23.—(Special.) Nathan Fasten, professor of zoology, is now secretary of the Pacific Fisheries society, elected during the annual meeting of that organization at the college of fisheries, University of Washington. Dr. Fasten has made a special study of diseases of fish and is considered an authority on the subject.

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